COVERUPS!

Number 5 | Gary Mack, Editor & Publisher | December, 1982

The Dallas Police Sirens: A Hidden Key

by Gary Mack

If the Ramsey Report is correct (that the assassination occurred at least one minute before the BBN shots), then its second by second scenario should logically fit the known events. As you are about to find out, it doesn't fit at all, unless you believe the limousine speed on Stemmons, in that tragic race to the hospital, was less than 40mph.

Those sirens, which appear faintly about two minutes after the last BBN shot, grow in loudness to a peak then slowly fade away, have always been controversial. Everyone hearing the DPD tape of Channel 1 recognizes that the squad cars were catching up to, and passing, a slowly moving or stationary microphone.

Officer McLain testified (and repeated in subsequent news interviews) that once he caught up to the motorcade about halfway to the Trade Mart, he never passed it or stopped. Critics of the BBN acoustics have used this apparent discrepancy to "prove" the open mic was not in Dealey Plaza. But actually there's no discrepancy at all.

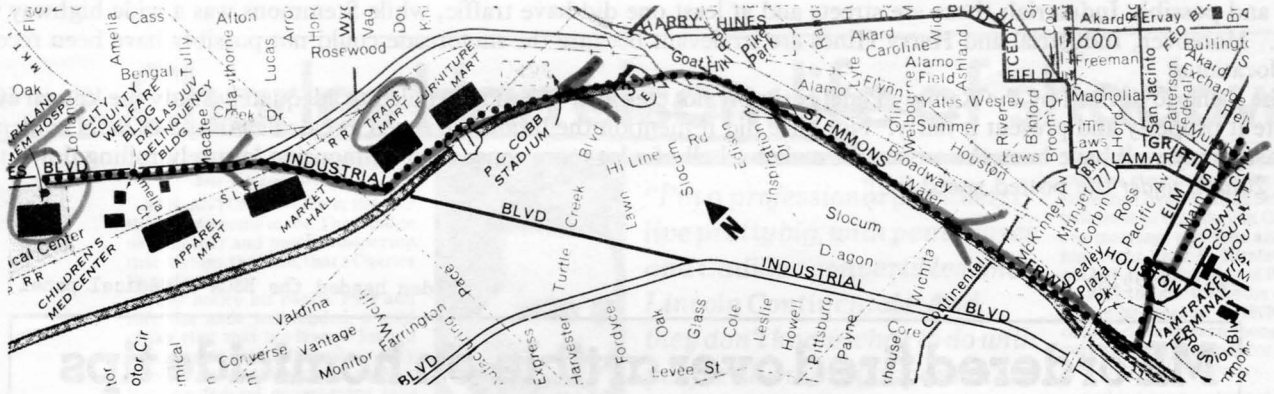
The critics, which include the Ramsey Panel, have all assumed only one mic was responsible for the entire 5½ minute period. Yet no such claim is made in BBN's final report. Page 112 of Volume 8 includes their decision about the nature of the sirens:

> 6.2 Sirens
>
> The region from 263 to 300 sec of the stuck transmission contains the sounds of a number of sirens. The effect is not that of a microphone being carried on a vehicle with a wailing siren, but rather of many vehicles with sirens coming and going around the microphone.

This statement was written with full knowledge of McLain's testimony and, while rather vague, reflects what Dr. Barger still believes—a second microphone picked up the passing sirens.

Where the changeover took place is a question which will hopefully be answered in Barger's response to the Ramsey Report. Meanwhile, there is some evidence indicating where the second mic may have been.

Coverups 1 includes Earl Golz' story about Officer Leslie Beilharz, who believes his mic was open when the motorcade went by him at Stemmons and Industrial. Former DPD radio supervisor Jim Bowles has another, unnamed candidate who was near the north parking lot of the Trade Mart with many other officers. There's probably no way to ever learn who had the second open mic, but we do know where he *wasn't* located (see map).



The M. W. Stevenson Exhibit, from WC Volume 21, details precisely the known positions of all officers involved with the motorcade and Trade Mart. Many were in the area of Stemmons and Industrial for the President's arrival and, of course, all had radios. A few hundred feet up Industrial at Harry Hines there was one officer assigned to the intersection; between he and Parkland there were no officers. The motorcade route to Parkland was just an extension of the route to the Trade Mart: it exited Stemmons to the service road just below the Furniture Mart, turned right on Industrial and one block later turned left on Harry Hines to Parkland.

To the ear the sirens seem to be passing very quickly; therefore the cars hadn't yet reached the turn onto Industrial and could not possibly be approaching the hard left turn at Harry Hines. The most likely location is between the Stemmons exit ramp (which is very short and almost straight) and Industrial Boulevard.

The point of all this is that the mic which "heard" the passing sirens was no farther away from Dealey Plaza than the Trade Mart—a distance of 2.273 miles according to Bowles and accepted by the Ramsey Panel. Since both time and distance are known, the average speed of the limousine can be easily calculated. That's what the Panel did, but incorrectly and perhaps deceptively.

Appendix E of the Ramsey Report is devoted to the siren sounds and motorcade speed; its purpose is little more than *attempted* proof of the Panel's conclusion. By using the crosstalk to establish common reference points on both channels, the Panel found at least 187 seconds elapsed between the assassination and the beginning of the sirens (since the shooting supposedly wasn't recorded, there was no way to tell precisely when it happened). Since it took that long to travel 2.273 miles, the Panel calculated the limousine's average speed to have been 43.8 miles per hour! The panel explained that "At first consideration this appears to be surprisingly slow for a trip to the hospital, but there were turns, traffic, a heavy car, Mrs. Kennedy and a Secret Service Agent crawling over the back of the car, and a critically wounded passenger[s] to slow the average speed." !

The only surprising thing is that anyone would believe these excuses. There were no turns between Dealey Plaza and Industrial Boulevard, just a right hand curve off Elm to the Stemmons entrance ramp. There was no traffic at all until Harry Hines because, as Stevenson's report clearly shows, traffic on Stemmons had already been stopped south of the entrance ramp, at all other entrances, south of the Stemmons exit ramp on the access road and along Industrial. Traffic was encountered on Harry Hines because that street was not part of the planned motorcade route.

Sure the limousine was heavy, but the implication that it was slow is false. It had a huge engine with a heavy duty transmission geared specifically for quick getaways. Jackie Kennedy was back in her seat before the limousine even reached the underpass, and Clint Hill, as seen in 3 different still photos, didn't get into the car until it really did slow down on Harry Hines. As for the "critically wounded passenger," that's an insult to everyone with even a tiny speck of intelligence and humanity. Does the Panel really want us to believe the car would have gone faster if the wounds hadn't been so serious?

The Panel's explanation reads like a desperate attempt to confirm the unsupportable. None of those excuses come remotely close to answering why the limousine traveled so slowly. What's more, the 43.8mph figure is too high—the Panel ignored other crucial time factors.

The 187 second time period stretches from Jesse Curry's order to "Go to the hospital" to the *beginning* of the sirens. Actually, the motorcade was closest to the mic when the sirens were the loudest, which happened about 18 seconds after they were first heard. Therefore, 18 seconds should be added to 187 for a total of 205 seconds as the absolute mimimum time. That, in turn, reduces the limousine speed to 39.9mph.

The Panel correctly noted that an unknown period of time elapsed between the assassination and Curry's order. As I have written previously, estimates range from 15 to 35 seconds. Giving the Panel the benefit of the doubt, 15 seconds should be added to the 205 total for a new total of 220 seconds and an average speed of 37.2mph. A more reasonable estimate, though, would be 25 seconds for a grand total of 230; and that results in an average speed of 35.6mph. That's almost 5mph *below* the posted minimum speed limit on a clear, dry day with no traffic whatsoever.

The Panel even wrote its own coup de grace: "it should be noted that the assumption of a long time interval makes more acute the difficulty with the [BBN] scenario...". That is absolutely, emphatically false. The BBN timing from shot 4 to the beginning of the sirens (as computed by the Panel) is 123 seconds. Add the necessary 18 seconds for a total of 141—and that's an average speed of 58.0mph, exactly what logic would suggest.

Agent Clint Hill testified (2H141) that they traveled 60 to 65 miles an hour. Agent Rufus Youngblood testified (2H151) that it was 60 to 70 miles an hour. Considering the motorcade slowdown while on the Stemmons entrance ramp, a speed of 60-70 on the freeway would be necessary to keep the average in the upper 50s.

In a lame attempt to support its conclusion, the Ramsey Panel quoted driver Greer's WC testimony: "I was getting through traffic and through streets...between 40 and 50 at least 50 miles per hour at times." But Greer was obviously referring to Harry Hines and possibly Industrial; those are streets and at least one did have traffic, while Stemmons was a wide highway without traffic. Moreover, Industrial and Harry Hines are irrelevant because the motorcade could not possibly have been recorded at those locations.

So the scenario devised by the Ramsey Panel is simply not credible. The Panel failed to adequately study the known evidence, evaluate it properly and present it fairly. Not once did it mention the limousine speed as calculated by the BBN evidence, and the reason may well have been the answer: it makes a hell of a lot more sense than a limousine leisurely rolling down the road nearly 20mph *under* the posted speed limit.

FWST 12-22-82

(Baden headed the HSCA's medical panel)

ME ordered fired over article on homicide tips

New York Times News Service

HAUPPAUGE, N.Y. — Dr. Michael M. Baden has been ordered dismissed as deputy chief medical examiner of Suffolk County after a magazine quoted him giving what the county executive called "advice on how to kill people."

BADEN

The county executive, Peter F. Cohalan, said he had the authority to dismiss Baden because the forensic pathologist had not yet been permanently appointed. Baden has held the $53,557-a-year post for less than a year.

But Baden was not formally dismissed Tuesday because county aides said they needed time to check Civil Service laws and decide whether a public hearing must be held or written charges filed.

He was removed three years ago as chief medical examiner in New York City amid complaints from the Manhattan district attorney and the health commissioner about his record-keeping, judgment and a lack of cooperation.

Cohalan ordered immediate removal of the 48-year-old Baden after reading an article in the January issue of *Oui* magazine.

The article, titled "High-Tech Homicide," described various cases involving fatal doses of potent drugs or poisons whose effects are usually so subtle that routine autopsies cannot detect them.

Baden was one of several experts quoted. The magazine's publisher, Jeff Goodman, said the article contained "a few tongue-in-cheek passages," but added: "A how-to-kill manual it's not."

Cohalan said, however, that it had been "inappropriate" for Baden to comment for such an article.

"A doctor's job is to cure the sick and to care for the ill, not advise people how to kill other people," Cohalan said. "The comments made by Dr. Baden are a disgrace to the medical profession and a disgrace to Suffolk County.

"These kinds of statements are very intemperate. Doctors take the Hippocratic oath to cure people, not to advise them on how to commit murder. He has a key criminal-justice position, and to give an interview with advice on killing is an extreme example of the misuse of his abilities and talents."

RUSSELL'S MEMOIRS

FWST 1-19-70

Senator Feels Oswald Aided

By DON OBERDORFER
Los Angeles Times-Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Sen. Richard B. Russell, who was a member of the Warren Commission which investigated the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, says he never believed that Lee Harvey Oswald, the alleged assassin, planned the assassination alone.

"I think someone else worked with him (on the planning)," the Georgia Democrat said in one of a series of taped television interviews to be broadcast next month by WSB-TV, an Atlanta television station.

"There were too many things — the fact that he (Oswald) was at Minsk (in the Soviet Union), and that was the principal center for educating Cuban students . . . Some of the trips he made to Mexico City and a number of discrepancies in the evidence, or as to his means of transportation, the luggage he had and whether or not anyone was with him —(that) caused me to doubt that he planned it all by himself," he said.

Russell appeared to be in accord with the commission's conclusions that Oswald was the man who fired the shots at Kennedy, and that he acted alone. "I think that any other commission you might appoint today would arrive at that conclusion," he said.

Due to his doubts that Oswald planned the act alone, Russell said he insisted on a disclaimer sentence in the final report before he would sign it. That sentence in the report, which was issued in September 1964, said that "because of the difficulty of proving negatives to a certainty the possibility of others being involved with either Oswald or (Jack) Ruby cannot be established categorically, but if there is any such evidence it has been beyond the reach of all the investigative agencies and resources of the United States and has not come to the attention of this commission."

The majority of the seven-member commission, headed by then-chief Justice Earl Warren, "wanted to find" that Oswald planned and acted alone, Russell said.

About 25 hours of interviews, which constitute the most extensive memoir yet available on the long public career of the 72-year-old Georgia senator, will be condensed to three one-hour programs for broadcast in Atlanta Feb. 11, 12 and 13.

* * *

COX BROADCASTING CO., owner of the Atlanta station, will present 30 minutes of program highlights at a Washington Hilton reception here Feb. 10. The members of the U.S. Senate, senior members of the House, administration officials, family and friends of Russell are being invited. Though the senator has been in ill health with emphysema and cancer, it is expected that he will attend.

Now president pro tempore of the Senate and the chairman of its Appropriations Committee, Russell has granted only rare interviews during recent years. None of those published have delved so deeply into his relationship with Lyndon B. Johnson, his Senate protege and later his close friend in the White House.

The relationship between the two men has been "one of the most peculiar in American history," says the Georgian in the taped interviews, evidently referring to their division of opinion on civil rights and many issues in later years which somehow did not prevent a continuing close friendshp.

After Johnson became President, he would frequently summon his old friend and Senate mentor to the White House in the evenings. "I'd go down and we'd have a highball and eat supper and talk about things and people," the senator recalled. "He was always interested in people and what they were doing, the people up there on the Hill, without getting into any arguments about the matters that we differed over . . .

* * *

"HE WOULD call me about things, well, like the Dominican incident and things like that, the Panama Canal controversy. He never did stop advising with me on things like that. It was just on these domestic spending issues that he made so many mistakes . . . (He) made every conceivable mistake almost from the standpoint of administration and organization," Russell said.

Both Russell and Johnson were strongly opposed to U.S. military intervention in South Vietnam when it was first proposed in 1953. Once the U.S. became committed, Russell said in the taped interviews, he could not criticize Johnson for sending additional forces.

"My complaint with him was not for sending others in, but because we didn't go on and win the day by closing up the ports of North Vietnam. He let the timid souls in the State Department talk him out of that," said the senator. "He could have ended that war in six months any time."

More on Russell is in Harold Weisberg's Whitewash IV - all of his books except Oswald in New Orleans are still available. Add postage and insurance to order:

WW 1, 2 or 4 - $6 each
WW 3 (2nd ed) - $8
Post Mortem - $10
Frame-Up (MLK)- $10

PM & F-U 2 lbs each, others 1 lb

Write: Harold Weisberg
#100, Route 12
Frederick, MD 21701

DTH 12-28-82

□

Award for the Dumbest Kennedy Assassination Book of 1982: **Michael Kurtz**, a Lousiana State University professor, claimed in his modestly titled book, "The Crime of the Century," that Cuban President **Fidel Castro** was responsible for killing President **John F. Kennedy**.

FWST 11-14-82

Charles Harrelson: life of shadows

By ANNE REIFENBERG
Star-Telegram Writer

SAN ANTONIO — He is the one the curious come to see. They nudge one another and point, whispering that it's him, that one, that's Charles Harrelson.

They notice his hands. Pale and soft, the nails well-tended, a gold pinky ring that his lawyer loaned him adorning the left finger — they do not look like the hands of a killer. But the federal government says they are, echoing the verdict of a state court jury in Brownsville nine years ago. Charles Harrelson says they are the hands of a professional card player — no more, and certainly no less.

"I'm a professional gambler," he once said. "I live by my wits. I live pretty big, with penthouses and Cadillac convertibles and Lincoln Continentals. And they don't know what to do with people like me. I've spent more time in courtrooms than most lawyers have."

His statement was not far from the truth. At 44, he has looked at the world from behind jail and prison bars in Angleton, Atlanta, Bastrop, Brownsville, Edinburg, Houston, Hunstville, Kansas City, Leavenworth, Los Angeles, San Antonio and Van Horn. He has been a defendant eight times and was convicted three times. Now he stands accused of murdering a federal judge, a crime last committed during the 19th century.

"I'm a professional gambler. I live pretty big, with penthouses and Cadillac convertibles and Lincoln Continentals. And they don't know what to do with people like me. I've spent more time in courtrooms than most lawyers have."
— Charles Harrelson

Some say he has traveled a long road since his birth in Huntsville in 1938. Others say it really hasn't been that far at all.

* * *

He was born to a prison guard and his wife, who soon after Charles' birth left her husband and four children. Three older siblings eventually left Huntsville and the shadow of the Texas Department of Corrections, where they were raised to lead lives as all-American as the Federal Bureau of Investigation. One of them, Claude, grew up to be an FBI agent.

Another, Leonard, mastered the art of lie-detecting and rose in the ranks of the Keyler Polygraph Institute in Chicago. The sister, Sybil, married young, moved to Lovelady and raised young Charles as one of her own.

The baby of the family fled, too, and the curious route he followed from the Lovelady High School football team to the Navy in California, one marriage and then another led him right back to Huntsville. But not before he was named Best Salesman by the encyclopedia company where he worked in 1959. He sold door-to-door to earn money to support his family and pay for classes at Los Angeles College.

A year later he pleaded guilty, in exchange for five years' probation, to a robbery charge in California. In 1965 he divorced his first wife. In 1968, he was arrested in Atlanta. Five years later he became the man who had spent more time in county jails without being convicted than any other person in Texas history.

Whatever it was that wrenched him from the brief, mundane course he followed on the West Coast is a mystery. The time between the day he was discharged from the Navy for taking a swing at an officer to the year he left his first wife and three sons is a vacuum in an otherwise headline-grabbing life.

Please see Charles on Page 4

Continued from Page 1

The years after his chance meeting with Sandra Sue Attaway in a Houston nightclub in August 1967 have been well-documented, largely by Ms. Attaway herself. The woman described as a "smoky brunette" by the media was a willing witness at her former lover's three state murder trials.

She was charged in one of them, and the offer of immunity might have been what brought her to the witness stand. But it also might have been her memory of the months she spent with the man she called Chuck. He beat her, she said, and she left him three times — for good in September 1968, after he pulled a gun, pointed it at her head and pulled the trigger.

The chamber was empty.

• • •

"Sure I carry guns," Harrelson told a reporter in 1980. "Do you think I'd go anywhere without a weapon while the police are running around trying to get me?"

Harrelson likes to talk, and the media have listened. After he was arrested in Atlanta in November 1968 and flown back to Texas to face charges in the murders of Houston carpet executive Alan Berg on May 28 and Hearne grain dealer Sam Degelia Jr. on June 2, Harrelson held court for reporters and presented himself as a champion of minority rights.

At the time, he was in jail in Edinburg and knew that the Degelia jury would be culled from that city's 80 percent Hispanic population. But the Berg trial in Angleton was first.

Berg's father had offered a $10,000 reward after his son was reported missing. The reward was collected by Bernard Weadock, Sandra Sue Attaway's new lover, who led police that summer to Berg's skeleton in a cedar clump on a beach near Freeport.

A rope was tied around the skeleton's neck. Two bullet holes had pierced its skull. Ms. Attaway testified at Harrelson's trial that she was there when the bullets were fired, and when Harrelson said he would have to strangle Berg to finish what he had started with a gun.

"I saw him dragging the body by a rope around the neck," she said. "He put the body in the trunk. I was sitting in the car and he asked me what was the matter with me."

She told him that she felt ill.

"You'd better not get sick," she quoted Harrelson as saying, and they drove to the beach near Freeport.

Before the trial began, Harrelson was offered a plea bargain. He rejected it.

"Why should I plead guilty?" he asked. "I have God and Percy Foreman on my side."

The famed Houston defense lawyer proved that his client's faith was well-founded. As Harrelson, sporting alligator shoes and the latest fashions, watched, Foreman told the jury that "any one of 11 men" could have killed Berg. Then Foreman produced a bill of sale indicating that Harrelson had sold a horse to an East Texas county judge the day Berg was murdered.

Foreman told the jury that his client had not committed the crime for $1,500 paid by a decorating company owner who employed Harrelson as a debt collector. Berg owed the firm $7,000.

Harrelson was acquitted. His celebration was a transfer from the Angleton jail cell to one back in Edinburg. Percy Foreman was still on his side.

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When he was arrested in Atlanta, Harrelson was driving a green Oldsmobile that had been reported stolen in Hearne. The Oldsmobile belonged to Pete Thomas Scamardo, who was convicted in 1970 of charges that he paid Harrelson $2,000 to murder Scamardo's partner, Sam Degelia Jr., for insurance money. Scamardo got seven years' probation.

It took two trials and, at both, testimony from Ms. Attaway to convict Harrelson. She said she saw him kick a prophylactic full of heroin out the door of his car when police stopped and arrested him near Kansas City in June 1968 on charges that he was carrying an unregistered, sawed-off shotgun. She said Harrelson later told her that he agreed to kill Degelia for a modest fee as a favor to Scamardo.

Jerry O'Brien Watkins, an admitted gun runner who once posed as a Central Intelligence Agency agent and tried to buy weapons for anti-Castro Cuban exiles in Miami, was the eyewitness. He said he was with Harrelson when they picked up Degelia at a McAllen Holiday Inn and drove him to an abandoned shack where Watkins, waiting in the car, said he heard shots and then Harrelson's voice: "This is not the first son of a b— I had to ring the bell on and won't be the last. Now move."

But nightclub singer Louise Scott Gannon testified that she was having dinner with Harrelson the night Degelia was killed. And Percy Foreman made the most of his closing arguments by shooting into the air of the courtroom a .25-caliber blank from a .44-caliber pistol to prove that a gun other than the .25-caliber weapon Watkins claimed Harrelson used could have fired the fatal shot.

The trial ended in a hung jury. Two years later, at the second trial in Brownsville — where "Free Harrelson" stickers decorated car bumpers throughout town — Miss Gannon did not testify. She reportedly was living in the Bahamas.

Harrelson strode up to District Attorney Oscar McInnis after the verdict was returned and the 15-year sentence announced.

"Congratulations," he said, shaking the prosecutor's hand. "You're hard as nails."

Harrelson had spent a decade in various jails and prisons by the time he was released from Leavenworth in fall 1978. He had honed his skills with a deck of cards during his time as a inmate. Somewhere along the line he had discovered drugs. It did not take him long to get back into circulation in Texas. He was 40 years old.

In Houston, he looked up a boyhood friend from Huntsville, gambler George Edward "Pete" Kay. Kay introduced him to Hampton Robinson III — an admitted heroin addict and the son of a wealthy Houston doctor who would become a Harrelson confidant and, later, an FBI informant — and Billy T. Dyer. Dyer introduced Harrelson to Jo Ann Starr, Kay's onetime lover.

The lithe, blonde, former blackjack dealer fell in love with the 6-foot 1-inch, sandy-haired, smooth-talking cardsharp. He was different from the other men in the crowd she ran with. He used words others couldn't pronounce and he knew how to treat women, lighting their cigarettes and chastising his friends for using profanity in the presence of a lady. She predicted to Dyer that she would one day regret ever having met Charles, but she became Mrs. Harrelson in January 1979.

Nearly three years later, she was convicted in Dallas of charges that she lied on a registration form when she bought the $695 deer rifle that the federal government claims her husband used to murder U.S. District Judge John H. Wood Jr.

The newlyweds had little more than a year together before Harrelson was arrested in Houston in February 1980 on a host of state charges involving gambling paraphernalia, narcotics and firearms. He posted bond but was back in jail by September.

But according to testimony at the Wood trial in San Antonio during the past five weeks, Harrelson made the most of the time he spent as a free man — he romanced three women besides Jo Ann: Robinson's wife, Jo Ann's daughter by another marriage and a wealthy widow in El Paso with whom he lived; confessed to killing not only Wood but President John F. Kennedy; and developed a novel theory about the American establishment: The System had brainwashed the public through the media with such television shows as *The Mod Squad* and *Mission Impossible*.

"People were made to believe that the right thing to do was inform, to snitch," he said in 1980.

Harrelson's words were prophetic. Since testimony began in the Wood trial Oct. 11, his former friends and lovers have gone to the stand to testify for the government, most of them under immunity.

In letters mailed to his step-daughter, Teresa Starr, when she served six months in jail for refusing to testify before a grand jury investigating Wood's death, he juxtaposed passionate vows that he loved her "with every fiber of my being" with descriptions of FBI agents as "dog-dung-eating slobs."

During visits with his wife at the Harris County Jail — where an informant said Harrelson passed the time correcting the informant's grammar and smoking marijuana from a pipe fashioned from an empty tube of Colgate toothpaste — Harrelson joked that he would buy two pink Rolls-Royces and hire two blacks to drive them after he was free.

Charles Harrelson's words may be his doom. On pages of a desk calendar that Robinson turned over to the FBI after Harrelson asked him to retrieve it from a Houston motel room, Harrelson wrote that he wanted to be cremated and have his ashes strewn over the John H. Wood Jr. Courthouse — "what a travesty."

When he scribbled those words, he was convinced that he had seen federal agents dangling from the branches of trees and thought that death was certain.

The Dallas Morning News Thursday, December 16, 1982

Harrelson blames c

By David McLemore
San Antonio Bureau of The News

SAN ANTONIO — Above his head, three paper angels mutely sang of Christmas joy from the jailhouse wall. Charles V. Harrelson, convicted murderer of a federal judge, sang a different song.

Harrelson, wearing jail-issue greens and hobbled by leg irons, held a news conference in the Bexar County Jail chapel Wednesday and once again insisted he did not kill U.S. Dist. Judge John H. Wood Jr.

But this time, Harrelson named the man he believes killed Wood.

During his 11-week trial, Harrelson steadfastly denied killing Wood and hinted that other men did. Tuesday, a federal jury found Harrelson guilty of ambushing Wood on May 29, 1979, outside the judge's San Antonio home.

Wednesday, Harrelson faced a phalanx of TV cameras and reporters and said: "I believe the man who killed Judge Wood is dead, and I believe Ronny Weeden is that man." Harrelson said he knew Weeden in prison and said that he was an associate of Harrelson's boyhood friend and fellow gambler George Edward (Pete) Kay. "Ronny Weeden had a reputation as a hit man," Harrelson said. "Now, he's disappeared off the face of the earth."

Weeden didn't act alone, Harrelson said in weaving a complicated tale of conspiracy. He said segments of the U.S. government were the true villains in the Wood case.

"There's a secret police in this nation," Harrelson said. "I call them the Gestapo. I believe Judge Wood had information from Lee Chagra about the Drug Enforcement Administration, and that's why they were killed. They were going to blow the lid off the DEA, an agency that acts totally outside the law."

Chagra, an El Paso lawyer, frequently clashed in the courtroom with Wood about drug verdicts. Chagra was gunned down during a robbery in his law office in December 1978. Chagra's brother, Jamiel (Jimmy) Chagra, will stand trial next month on charges he paid Harrelson $250,000 to kill Wood.

Speaking about his trial, Harrelson said, "I feel nothing about that

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Two days later, police responded to reports of a man wandering along a West Texas freeway near Van Horn. They found Harrelson sitting in a ditch and holding a .44-caliber pistol to his head, threatening suicide. He had reportedly been mainlining cocaine for months. He was taken into custody a short while after midnight Sept. 1, 1980, and has been in custody ever since.

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During 24 days of testimony, the jurors who will decide Harrelson's fate have seen him — attired in a number of Western-cut suits — sitting in the San Antonio courthouse that was his preferred final resting place.

They have seen him joke with his lawyer, flirt with his wife, rock back in his chair to glare at the witness stand through gold-rimmed eyeglasses. They did not see him gently shake the hand of his lawyer's 13-year-old son and pause during a recess to make the shy boy laugh with a card trick or two.

From the FBI tapes, jurors know Harrelson as vulgar, boorish and profane. They do not know him to be the witty conversant that his lawyers have said he is, a man who feels denied if he misses the evening news and read *Johnathan Livingston Seagull*, and liked it, in the county jail in Angleton.

Soon they will know him a little better, when he takes the stand in his own defense. He will deny that he is a criminal, as he has done many times in the past.

"I'm not a thief, I'm a professional gambler," he once told a reporter. "I can do more tricks with a deck of cards than a monkey can with bananas. I'm a criminal by statute because gambling is illegal, but I don't go around killing people. There is not enough money in this world to hire me to kill anyone."

The question is whether jurors will believe Harrelson the witness or Harrelson the author of the desk-calendar testament:

"I'm sorry, not for myself, but for the pain I've caused others, both those who loved me and those who loved the people I've killed. But I've never killed a person who was underserving of it."

FWST 8-18-82

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"Death doesn't bother me," Harrelson said. "I'll live until it's time to end this life. But I intend to fight the government with anything I have. Right now, that's a sharp pencil and a dull brain."

Harrelson acknowledged that his conviction has gained him respect and better treatment from jail inmates. Harrelson is kept separate from other prisoners. He's the only inmate in an 18-man cell on the jail's fifth floor.

"I truly haven't given any thought to how this case makes my place in history ," Harrelson said. "The one terrifying thought I have is that I might be a negative example, that some 15-year-old kid sniffing glue may read about me and want to emulate me."

After a half-hour, the TV crews began taking down their lights, and reporters closed their notebooks. Harrelson once again warned that the news media is the only force the nation has to combat a cabal dedicated to destroying civil liberties.

"I have no civil liberties," he said. "But what they've done is kill it. You have no civil rights either.

"I'm not a sympathetic figure, I know. But one day, when you're all wearing chains, you'll say the SOB was right."

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because the new order "gives classifiers vaguer guidelines, fewer restrictions, and unnecessary additional classification authority."

Administration officials defended the new order, saying it will create little, if any, additional classification.

"The world didn't come to an end on Aug. 1 when the new system took effect," said Steven Garfinkel, director of the Information Security Oversight Office. "I didn't even hear a loud bang."

Garfinkel said he has been advising agencies that the new order does not call for increased classification and described its goals as relatively modest.

(Ronny Weeden, named by Harrelson as the real killer of Judge Wood, has an intriguing connection to the JFK case. Researcher Gary Shaw has learned that the murder of George McGann, husband of Babushka Lady Beverly Oliver, took place in Weeden's house and he was the first person police questioned. The killing was never officially solved. Weeden's name is in McGann's personal notebooks, and Beverly remembers him. Best man at the McGann wedding was Russell D. Matthews, Jack Ruby's friend for many years and Harrelson's admitted idol; Harrelson was carrying Matthews' business card when arrested.)

CONFIDENTIAL: THE FBI'S FILE ON JFK

Investigative report by Earl Golz

Virtually everyone 25 or older knows where he was the day Kennedy was killed. Truly, the way we look at ourselves, our country, and the world changed irrevocably. Part of that change is the result of the anxiety from never having satisfactorily found out all the answers to the too many questions arising from the greatest mystery of the twentieth century. In this, the first of a two-part report, a veteran Kennedy-assassination expert answers many of those questions for the first time.

When "Fedora," a prized double agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, was unmasked last year as being, in reality, a triple agent under the control of Soviet intelligence, shock waves rippled through those who worked FBI counterespionage cases with the KGB officer. For 15 years, buttressed by the personal endorsement of FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, federal agents assumed the Soviet diplomat in New York code-named Fedora was on their side.

One of Fedora's major deceptions was his role in the FBI's investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Fedora had been a trusted double agent for the bureau about two years, when, in early 1964, he provided the clincher—at least in the eyes of Hoover—that the Soviets were not involved in the assassination. He backed up the story of Yuri Nosenko—another KGB officer who defected to this country two months after the slaying in Dallas—which claimed that the accused assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, had no KGB connections.

For Hoover, Fedora's assurances about Nosenko validated the FBI's belief that Oswald was a lone-nut assassin—a theory the bureau had adopted within one week after the assassination. If Nosenko was telling the truth, and was not a Soviet disinformation agent, it would mean that the FBI was right about Oswald from the outset.

Nosenko, who claimed he supervised the KGB file on Oswald after Oswald's defection to Russia in 1959, assured the FBI in 1964 that he was "of no interest" to the KGB because of his "mental instability." Nosenko said the KGB "had no personal contact with Oswald and had not attempted to utilize him in any manner." The former KGB official also told the FBI that the Soviet secret police were unaware, when Oswald arrived in Russia, that he had been a U.S. Marine radar operator at a military base in Japan from where the high-flying aerial reconnaissance U-2 spy plane was undertaking secret missions over the Soviet Union.

The counterintelligence staff of the Central Intelligence Agency was unimpressed by the FBI's unqualified acceptance of Nosenko's story. The CIA found it inconceivable that the KGB never quizzed Oswald about his military background, especially after he publicly announced upon his defection that he intended to give the Soviets such information. Hoover did not inform the CIA of Fedora's confirmation of Nosenko, but this probably would not have altered the agency's assessment of him as a Soviet plant. The FBI chief was disdained by many at CIA headquarters for being basically a law-and-order cop with little understanding of counterespionage.

Nosenko's information essentially revealed little more than what was reported in 140 pages of documents produced by the Soviet government in response to a request by the Warren Commission. These routine, official papers showed no interviews or even surveillance reports on Oswald and, apparently, none were from the KGB files Nosenko asserted he supervised.

The Soviets did not even comply to the commission's request to interview witnesses who may have met Oswald in Russia. What documents the Soviets produced were also void of any information from January 1960 to March 1961; the only written account of Oswald's activities during that time was Oswald's "historic diary," found among his personal effects after the assassination.

Could all these cracks in the marble mean that Oswald returned to the United States as a 'sleeper,' a Soviet agent provocateur?

Two months after the Kennedy assassination, Nosenko contacted the CIA again in Geneva, urging the agency to accept him as a defector because his life allegedly would be in danger if he returned to Russia. And, oh yes, he knew all anyone could know about Oswald in Russia.

The first suspicions about Fedora's FBI role surfaced in 1978, six years after Hoover's death, in Edward Jay Epstein's book, *Legend: The Secret World of Lee Harvey Oswald*. Shortly before the book was published, Fedora left this country for Russia and has not returned.

The FBI subsequently began reevaluating Fedora's bona fides and, in 1980, in "one of the most tightly held secrets in the intelligence community," concluded Fedora had never really switched his allegiance from the Soviet Union, according to Henry Hurt, author of the book *Shadrin*, published in 1981.

Nosenko's credibility was also under question. After Hoover's intelligence agents had debriefed Nosenko and swallowed his story in March 1964, the CIA, one month later, took a second crack at him. By 1968, it decided Nosenko was indeed a bona fide defector, gave him a new identity, and hired him as a consultant. He still serves as a CIA consultant for a handsome fee.

The question was not laid to rest, however. A bitter internal dispute over whether Nosenko was a Soviet disinformation plant split ranks within the agency for years.

In 1978, the House Select Committee on Assassinations reexamined the matter and, in 1979, firmly concluded that Nosenko had "lied about Oswald" 15 years earlier. The committee determined that the KGB had Oswald under extensive surveillance during his time in Russia from 1959 until 1962, contrary to what Nosenko had told the CIA and FBI.

The committee also found it "highly probable that the Soviet government

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THE FBI'S FILE ON JFK

continued

possessed information on Oswald that it has not provided the U.S. government," such as records of surveillance and a KGB interview with Oswald.

Having branded Nosenko a liar, however, the House committee gingerly danced around accusing the Soviet Union of having any involvement in the Kennedy assassination. The committee speculated the reasons Nosenko "would lie about Oswald range from the possibility that he merely wanted to exaggerate his own importance to the disinformation hypothesis with its sinister implications."

With words as deliberately phrased as a State Department dispatch, the congressional panel concluded: "Its suspicions notwithstanding, the committee was led to believe, on the basis of the available evidence, that the Soviet government was not involved in the assassination."

However, Richard Helms, who insisted that, as the CIA director in 1968, he had not accepted Nosenko's bona fides, testified ten years later that he knew of no one familiar with the Nosenko case who found his comments about Oswald and the KGB "to be credible. That still hangs in the air like an incubus. . . . This strained credulity at the time [1964]. It strains it to this day."

Helms said if Nosenko "had been programmed in advance by the KGB to minimize any KGB connections with Oswald, if Mr. Nosenko was giving us false information about Oswald's contacts with the KGB from 1959 to 1962, it was fair for us to surmise that there may have been an Oswald-KGB connection in November 1963—more specifically, that Oswald was acting as a Soviet agent when he shot President Kennedy."

When Helms met privately in the spring of 1964 with Chief Justice Earl Warren, he solemnly informed the chairman of the commission appointed to investigate the Kennedy assassination that the CIA could not establish Nosenko's bona fides as a defector. Warren, however, was getting no such vibrations from the FBI, which was assigned the investigative legwork for the Warren Commission.

Confronted with the gap between Hoover and Helms, the Warren Commission subsequently left the Nosenko issue in limbo; it didn't even mention his name in its final report and accompanying 26 volumes.

Believing his (and the FBI's) reputation was at stake, Hoover eagerly embraced Fedora's confirmation of Nosenko. Hoover's aides indicated how badly he needed such assurances. Lone nuts are not within the purview of the FBI, unlike former defectors to Russia who may have intelligence ties. If the lone-nut theory was accepted—meaning there had been no conspiracy—it would have greatly reduced the threat of criticism of the FBI.

Almost immediately after the assassination, Hoover exerted pressure on senior FBI officials "to complete their investigation and issue a factual report supporting the conclusion that Oswald was the lone assassin," according to the Senate Intelligence Committee. Within three weeks after the shooting in Dallas, just as the Warren Commission was beginning its investigation, the FBI prepared a position paper stating Oswald "was the assassin and that he acted alone."

In 1962, the bureau received a warning signal about possible Oswald links with Soviet intelligence within weeks after he returned to this country from Russia. When FBI agents interviewed him in Fort Worth, Texas, and asked him to take a polygraph test, Oswald refused to be polygraphed even on whether he had dealings with Soviet intelligence. In 1976, the Senate Intelligence Committee discovered the Warren Commission "apparently was not provided" the cover pages of the FBI report which discussed Oswald's refusal to take the lie test.

In 1979, the House committee found the FBI "considerably, if unintentionally, compromised the quality of the effort to investigate the possibility of a conspiracy." The panel noted that Hoover's "predisposition that Oswald had been a lone assassin affected the course of the investigation, adding to the momentum to conclude the investigation after limited consideration of possible conspiratorial areas."

The FBI agent who had monitored Oswald's activities in Dallas may have been the first victim of the Hoover paranoia that permeated the upper ranks of the bureau. James P. Hosty, Jr., only recently revealed the disappearance of bureau documents related to a preassassination meeting in Mexico City between Oswald and a KGB agent responsible for assassination and sabotage. Hosty said he was kept in the dark until an intelligence source told him about the KGB agent three years after the assassination.

Nothing indicates the excised Dallas documents ever reached the Warren Commission, although Hosty asserts they were quietly reinserted into the Dallas files after he testified before the commission five months later.

During a preliminary briefing in preparation for his testimony, Hosty recalled something that shocked and angered Alan H. Belmont, Hoover's assistant. Hosty told Warren Commission attorneys that, on the day of the assassination, he saw Oswald's file in Dallas had at least three documents referring to Oswald's contact with the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City, including a notation that Oswald met with "a Russian named Kostikov."

Hosty said Belmont, in charge of the assassination investigation, muttered under his breath, "'Damn it, I told them not to let you see that.'"

No comprehensive report about Valeriy Kostikov's intelligence credentials was known to have reached the Warren Commission, until the CIA sent a document to General Counsel J. Lee Rankin one week before the Warren Report went to press.

In 1976, the Senate Intelligence Committee declassified the CIA's 1964 account of Oswald's Soviet contacts in Mexico City and publicly identified Kostikov as a member of the KGB's department for assassination and sabotage. The committee said it was "most surprising" that Soviet experts at FBI headquarters in Washington "did not intensify their efforts in the Oswald case after being informed Oswald had met with Vice Consul Kostikov at the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City."

Hosty said staff members of the House Select Committee on Assassinations twice called him to Washington, in 1977 and in 1978, but put off his testimony before the full committee after he said he intended to disclose that references to Kostikov were removed from the Oswald FBI file in Dallas in 1963. G. Robert Blakey, chief counsel for the now-defunct committee, said he could not "deny or confirm [Hosty's story about Kostikov] because I am simply not free to do so." He declined comment on why the committee's final report mentions Kostikov only once—as a "Soviet consul" in Mexico City—without stating he was a KGB agent. The Warren Report in 1964 was essentially no more revealing, but did identify Kostikov as a KGB agent.

A 300-page report by the House committee, "Lee Harvey Oswald, the CIA and Mexico City," was classified in 1978 and remains so.

In the past five years, however, the official government secrecy maintained over Oswald's trip to Mexico City has been gradually stripped away. It is now known that, after buying Nosenko's story about Soviet noninvolvement in the assassination, Hoover sent a member of the Communist Party of the USA to Cuba in early 1964 as an undercover agent to learn what he could from Premier Fidel Castro. Morris Childs, code-named "Solo," returned to tell Hoover that Castro said Oswald, in Mexico City, had "vowed in the presence of Cuban Consulate officials to assassinate" Kennedy.

If true, Oswald's threat on Kennedy's life makes his meeting with Kostikov even more sinister. The timing is important; after Oswald's visit to the Cuban Consulate, a consulate representative telephoned the Soviet Embassy to say Oswald was coming to see the Soviets, ostensibly about a visa to Russia. Surely, Oswald's "offer to kill Kennedy," as Hosty phrased it, was then relayed by the Cubans to the Soviet Embassy, if nothing else. And, after learning of Oswald's threat, Kostikov, as the KGB agent for assassination and sabotage, availed himself to this brash ex-Marine and self-proclaimed Marxist.

In 1978, Castro told the House Select Committee on Assassinations that no one had ever told him Oswald spoke of murdering Kennedy when he visited the Cuban Consulate in Mexico City. The Cuban premier denied not only what FBI informant Childs attributed to him in 1964, but also a similar report of an Oswald threat resulting from an interview he supposedly gave British journalist Comer Clark in 1967.

The House committee opted for Castro and concluded, "On balance, the committee did not believe that Oswald voiced a threat to Cuban officials. However reliable the confidential source [Childs] may be, the committee found it to be in error in this instance."

However, committee staff director Blakey later said he thought 'the threat probably did occur.' He also said he couldn't accept Castro's statement to the committee that it would have been Castro's "moral duty to inform the United States" if Oswald had made such a threat.

The committee's chief attorney also wrote off Oswald's meeting with Kostikov because "such officials [KGB], to maintain their cover, in fact, engage in routine embassy business." Blakey, of course, had no solid evidence the meeting between Oswald and Kostikov involved "routine business." Oswald is dead and the Soviet government was not about to produce Kostikov, who was recalled from Mexico City over ten years ago when a KGB agent defected in Britain and blew the whistle on other undercover agents around the world.

Hoover, meanwhile, felt compelled not to sit on Childs's report about Oswald's alleged threat on Kennedy's life in the presence of Cubans in Mexico City. The FBI chief sent a top-secret letter to the Warren Commission Counsel Rankin in June 1964 reiterating what Childs said Castro told him. However, nothing in sections of the letter, publicly released in 1976, indicates that Hoover even speculated about a connection between Oswald's threat and his meeting with Kostikov.

Shortly after the Kostikov papers were taken from Oswald's file in the Dallas FBI office, other potential assassination evidence disappeared. Their removal was kept secret, even from the Warren Commission, for more than a decade. Unlike the Kostikov papers, however, they were never returned and, in at least one instance, they were destroyed.

A threatening note Oswald had left for Hosty at the Dallas FBI office was flushed down a toilet by Hosty within hours after Oswald was shot to death by Dallas nightclub operator Jack Ruby. Hosty said J. Gordon Shanklin, Dallas agent-in-charge, ordered him to destroy the note, saying, "Oswald is dead now. There can be no trial."

Shanklin denied knowing about the Oswald note when he testified during a congressional hearing in 1975, shortly after the incident was publicly disclosed.

Several days before Oswald had personally delivered the note to the FBI office, Hosty had interviewed Oswald's wife, Marina, at her residence in Irving, Texas. During the congressional hearings, both Hosty and a secretary in the FBI office, Mrs. Nancy Fenner, agreed that Oswald was complaining in the note that Hosty was "bothering" his wife. They disagreed, however, on the gravity of his threat. With the note supposedly destroyed, the matter remains unresolved.

Another item of Oswald's which disappeared from the FBI's possession within a week after the assassination was a Minox camera. The miniature German-made Minox was used as a "spy camera" by both sides during World War II to photograph secret documents and perform other espionage assignments.

Dallas police detective Gus Rose said the camera, loaded with exposed film, was found by police during a search of Oswald's seabag on either the day of the assassination or the next day. An inventory of Oswald's property taken from the Irving residence was made in the Dallas FBI office four days after the assassination and listed "one Minox camera" under item number 375. The day after the property was delivered to the FBI laboratory in Washington, a second published inventory showed no listing for a Minox camera. The words *Minox light meter* were substituted for the camera under item 375.

The FBI tried unsuccessfully to persuade Rose to change the police property list to report a Minox light meter rather than a Minox camera with film, Rose said. Two months after the assassination, the FBI finally placed into its records a Minox camera which admittedly was not Oswald's. A bureau report said the Minox camera was obtained January 31, 1964, from Mrs. Ruth Paine at the Irving home and that it belonged to her husband.

Warren de Brueys, one of the two agents who had custody of Oswald's possessions when the Minox camera was transformed into a Minox light meter, said in 1978, "Nothing purposely, to my knowledge, was done to conceal anything. That would be the furthest thing from our minds at that time." De Brueys, an intelligence agent for the FBI in New Orleans during the five months Oswald lived there in 1963, was reassigned to Dallas for two months to assist the Warren Commission investigation.

Now director of the Metropolitan Crime Commission of New Orleans, de Brueys said he could not remember whether a Minox camera was ever in Oswald's possessions.

De Brueys was not one of the agents who signed affidavits, upon Hoover's request, in 1964, denying Oswald was an FBI informant. However, he said in

1978 that he had "limitations as to what I can say. . . I have signed the secrecy agreement before leaving the bureau."

Photographs developed from other Minox film found among Oswald's possessions were publicly released by the FBI in 1978, after being suppressed almost 15 years.

Three of the photos, taken in a military environment, were made from inside a barbed-wire encampment with civilians walking on the other side. Another shot taken from a boat showed a freighter anchored offshore mountainous terrain. These pictures were most likely taken while Oswald was stationed in Japan as a Marine in 1957 and 1958; during that time he went on a tour of duty to Taiwan, the Philippines, Corregidor, and Indonesia.

But while Oswald was in Russia from 1959 to 1962, he photographed a number of military establishments and other sensitive subjects more of interest to an espionage agent than to a sightseer. The photos were all taken in the Minsk area where Oswald lived and where, Hoover once told the Warren Commission, reports located a Soviet "espionage training school." The photos showed an airport, an army office building, a polytechnical institute, and a radio-television factory assembly line, among other scenes.

For 14 years, the FBI did not even reveal the Oswald photos in Russia existed until references to them were declassified along with other assassination documents in early 1978. However, neither the photos themselves nor the location where the FBI found them have been released.

In the months prior to the assassination, Oswald returned to New Orleans, the place of his birth. It was there that his actions aroused the strongest suspicions of intelligence connections to a foreign country. Adrian Alba, manager of an auto storage garage next door to a New Orleans coffee company where Oswald worked, claims he saw, from his garage, an FBI agent give Oswald an envelope through the window of one of the government cars.

Alba said Oswald and the same green Studebaker had another "timed rendezvous" in the summer of 1963, about two days after the first one at the same spot; but there "was just something said, rather than exchanged."

Oswald visited frequently with Alba, who was then about eight years older, in Alba's garage office. The attraction was guns. Alba, an avid gun collector, talked guns with Oswald and loaned him his gun magazines, some of which were found in Oswald's room after the assassination. Alba said the FBI agent who was Oswald's contact on two occasions was driving a Secret Service car from his garage because no FBI cars were available at the time. The man showed Alba credentials as an FBI agent from Washington "who was flown down and needed a vehicle," the garage manager said.

De Brueys said it "sounds sort of asinine" for an FBI agent to drive a Secret Service car in 1963, because the FBI in New Orleans "had our own garage, separate and apart" from the Secret Service. "I don't know if that's ever happened where an FBI agent would be driving a Secret Service car," he said. "I am not saying it couldn't happen, but the odds were a million to one against those sort of facts existing."

De Brueys testified in secret for more than three hours before the Senate Intelligence Committee during its assassination probe in 1976. He volunteered to testify, he said, after New Orleans bar owner Orest Pena falsely asserted on a national television show that de Brueys often met with Oswald in that city's French Quarter.

It was incontrovertible that Pena knew de Brueys because Pena was an occasional informant for him. Pena had also claimed that Oswald, accompanied by an unidentified Mexican man, was in his bar in the summer of 1963. However, in an appearance before the Warren Commission the next year, Pena, at least temporarily, backed off his allegation of the de Brueys-Oswald connection. Later, he said he vacillated because de Brueys had threatened him before his Warren Commission appearance.

De Brueys said there is "no truth to the fact of his [Pena's] allegations that he saw me with Oswald . . . I'm quite sure he never made any such allegation when he talked to the Warren Commission people because that would have been the most outstanding thing he would have been able to say. And he didn't say it then."

The semirecluse description Hoover posthumously bestowed upon Oswald wears thinnest in New Orleans during the summer of 1963. The FBI never could publicly place Oswald in a shoddy three-story building at 544 Camp Street; but it is there where the cover-up occurred, where a strange combination of forces intent on painting him as an aimless loner is most vulnerable.

The Warren Commission inherited a superficial FBI investigation of 544 Camp Street after the assassination. Perhaps it was because a former FBI agent-in-charge in Chicago, W. Guy Banister, was a tenant in that building in 1963 and a key link to the more sinister side of Oswald. Banister, a rabid anticommunist who died months after the assassination, was known to retain close links to his former employer after he retired and opened a private detective agency at 544 Camp Street.

In 1963, the building was also headquarters for the New Orleans branch of the Cuban Revolutionary Council, the umbrella organization for all anti-Castro Cuban exile groups, created by the CIA in the early 1960s. Immediately upon arriving in New Orleans in April 1963, Oswald began playing both sides of the fence: pro-Castro and anti-Castro. In a way, he was mirroring the crosscurrents emanating that year toward Cuba from the Kennedy administration.

Before he departed Dallas for New Orleans, Oswald began writing the New York headquarters of the pro-Castro Fair Play for Cuba Committee, asking for literature. He continued to correspond with the FPCC during his first three months in New Orleans, all of which was being monitored by the FBI.

Oswald, meanwhile, kept up his pro-Castro front, writing Vincent T. Lee, FPCC national director, about "renting a small office at my own expense for the purpose of forming an FPCC branch here in New Orleans." He didn't say where it was located, and, to this day, no one has discovered that information.

Ten days later, on the downtown streets of New Orleans, Oswald was arrested while demonstrating on behalf of the FPCC. He was charged with disturbing the peace after what appeared to be a half-hearted scuffle with New Orleans anti-Castro exile leader Carlos Bringuier. From his jail cell, Oswald summoned the FBI—hardly plausible for a former defector to Russia who had complained he was hounded by the FBI during his first year back in this country.

FBI agent John Quigley questioned Oswald in his New Orleans cell for about 90 minutes. In an FBI report suppressed from the public until 1977, Quigley wrote he had been contacted by a New Orleans police intelligence officer who said Oswald "was desirous of seeing an agent and supplying to him information with regard to his activities with the FPCC in New Orleans." Quigley left the jail with some of the FPCC literature Oswald was handing out on the street. On the last page of one pamphlet taken by the agent was a rubber-stamped address, "FPCC, 544 Camp St., New Orleans, La."

The FBI did little to try to explain the political rainbow at 544 Camp Street, except to interview the owner of the building, Sam Newman. Newman told the bureau that, "to the best of his knowledge, he had no recollection of seeing Oswald in or around the building." Unable to ignore the address stamped on Oswald's literature, the FBI reported to the Warren Commission that "extensive investigation was not able to connect Oswald with that address." The FBI didn't note—although it knew—that Oswall had written the FPCC saying he had rented an office at an unidentified location shortly before the street demonstration. The FBI also obscured from the Warren Commission that Banister was a tenant at 544 Camp. His office was listed by the bureau as 531 Lafayette Street, without stating this was a side entrance to the same structure at 544 Camp Street.

Three years later, in 1967, Banister's widow was to tell investigators for New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison that she found a number of FPCC leaflets among her husband's effects after his death in the spring of 1964. Why would Banister, a right-wing zealot and adviser to anti-Castro militants, have pro-Castro pamphlets in his possession?

It was no secret to one of Banister's secretaries that Oswald and her boss were well acquainted. Mrs. Delphine Roberts recalls she interviewed Oswald in the summer of 1963 for a role as "undercover agent" in Banister's operation. Oswald was given use of an office directly above Banister's at 544 Camp Street, from which to conduct his FPCC work, Mrs. Roberts said.

When Mrs. Roberts mentioned she saw Oswald passing out the pro-Castro literature on the street, Banister calmly assured her " 'not to worry about him. . . . He's with us; he's associated with the office.' "

Banister kept his former FBI contacts "and was still working for them" in the summer of 1963, Mrs. Roberts said. "I know he and the FBI traded information due to his former association. I think he received funds from the CIA, too. I know he had access to large funds at various times in 1963."

David Ferrie, a frequent visitor to 544 Camp Street during the summer of 1963, used an office to the rear of Banister's, Mrs. Roberts said. Ferrie was a crack pilot and part-time "investigator" for one of the attorneys of reputed New Orleans Mafia chief Carlos Marcello. He was also an avid supporter of Sergio Aracha Smith—the representative of the Cuban Revolutionary Council at 544 Camp Street—in the Cuban counterrevolution.

Several witnesses said Ferrie was an instructor for the Civil Air Patrol squadron in New Orleans in 1955, when Oswald supposedly joined briefly. Three days after the assassination, Ferrie surrendered to New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison who wanted him for questioning in connection with the shooting in Dallas. He was released shortly when the FBI discredited a private detective who had accused his former friend of teaching Oswald how to fire a rifle.

Within days after Garrison's ill-fated investigation of the Kennedy assassination in 1967 publicly implicated Ferrie as a chief suspect, the unusual looking, hairless man died. Garrison seized upon the untimely death as a suicide by "one of history's most important men." Ferrie's demise in his room, however, was ruled as death due to natural causes.

Ferrie talked about Oswald "as if he knew him," Mrs. Roberts said, "but I won't say intimately." On at least one occasion, they went together to an anti-Castro exile training camp near New Orleans to take rifle practice, she said.

Another secretary in the Banister office in 1963, Mrs. Mary Brengel, did not remember Oswald there; "but very little was explained to me and there were many locked files and kind of an air of secrecy." Mrs. Brengel recalls taking dictation from Banister which "indicated that he had fought to prevent the deportation or to bring Marcello back to this country. I expressed surprise that he would be in that particular position, and he said, 'Well, it was a principle involved that, if it were violated, would affect every citizen of the United States.' And, at that point, that was the last letter he dictated to me."

Mrs. Brengel says she remembers rifles propped up against the wall of Banister's office "and how they talked over different qualities [of the weapons] in hushed tones over long hours. And, as of the day of the assassination, those guns were gone and were never back in the office again."

She also recalls Banister was not in the office all during the day of the assassination. Mrs. Roberts brought a radio to the office that day for the first time and, when she turned it on, she received a telephone call that the president had been shot, Mrs. Brengel said.

Mrs. Roberts said Banister "didn't know anything like this [assassination conspiracy] was going on" before the shooting, two months after Oswald had moved back to Dallas. He told her Kennedy was assassinated "because his eyes were open to the Bay of Pigs thing. He saw his mistake [Banister told Mrs. Roberts], but he was going to change his thinking and his policies. They couldn't allow that, so what did they do?"

In 1979, the House Select Committee on Assassinations conceded "at least a possibility that Oswald and Guy Banister were acquainted" and learned that Banister left extensive files to his widow's custody when he died. The widow later sold them to Louisiana State Police agents who told the committee Oswald's name was not the subject of any one file, but was mentioned in a file entitled "Fair Play for Cuba Committee." The panel was unable to examine that file because it and other files not on public record or part of an ongoing criminal investigation were ordered burned by the superintendent of state police.

Reports of Oswald's association with anti-Castro Cubans followed him in his return to Dallas, via Mexico City, early in October 1963. As in New Orleans, the FBI could not substantiate any such contacts in Dallas, and that's the way it was in the Warren Report.

Next month, in the second installment of "The FBI's File on JFK," author Golz explores Oswald's connection with the anti-Castro movement—one of the most disturbing unanswered questions that indicates a possible conspiracy; Hoover's secret information about Dallas nightclub operator Jack Ruby (unrevealed to the public until nine months after the assassination); and new evidence about Oswald's shooting of policeman J.D. Tippit, who died while attempting to intercept Oswald near Ruby's apartment—less than one hour after Kennedy was assassinated. Also: "The Cast of Known Characters of the Greatest Mystery of the Twentieth Century."

Earl Golz is a JFK assassination expert and reporter for the Dallas Morning News.

Plan envisions JFK museum in depository

By Christy Hoppe
Staff Writer of The News

DMN 12-7-82

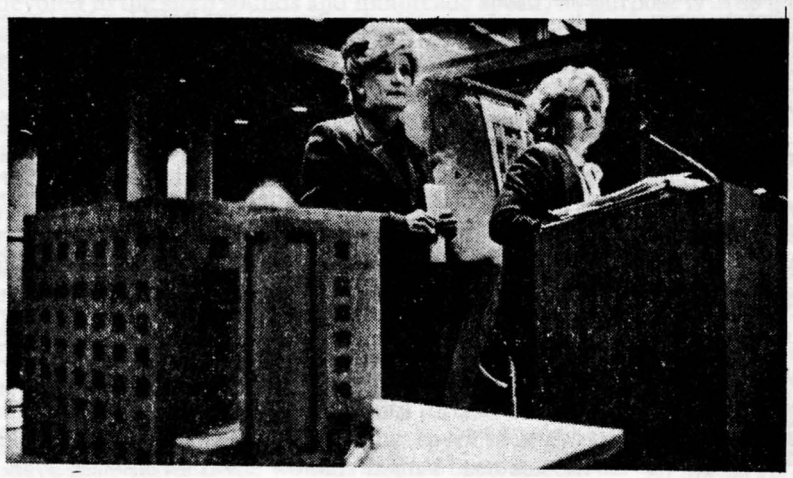
The Dallas County Historical Commission announced plans Monday to convert the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository into a $3 million museum that will detail President John F. Kennedy's assassination and its aftermath.

The site that officials say Lee Harvey Oswald used to assassinate Kennedy has been vacant for 19 years. The Texas School Book Depository building was bought by the county five years ago. The first two floors have been renovated and serve as administrative offices.

The museum, expected to be completed in 1985, will include 11 film and physical exhibits. The window area from which investigators said Kennedy was shot will be recreated from FBI photographs, said museum project curator Conover Hunt Jones.

The area where the rifle and Oswald's work clipboard were discovered on the southwest corner of the floor also will be recreated from photographs taken the day of the shooting, she said.

Mrs. Jones, who has worked on the museum project for four years, said about 150,000 visitors are expected to tour the museum during its first year, with the number increasing to as many as 500,000 annually.



The Dallas Morning News: John Rhodes

Museum project curator Conover Hunt-Jones (left) and Llydalyn Adams discuss plans of the Dallas County Historical Commission to convert the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository into a $3 million museum.

"They come here on pilgrimages," Mrs. Jones said. "They come here to see it. It's not a morbid fascination. The Kennedy assassination was so traumatic in how it happened — and it almost happened on TV so that everyone experienced it. Then there is the controversy that nobody was put on trial."

Included in the exhibit will be the widely shown movie film taken by one of the crowd during the assassination, an overview of Kennedy's Texas trip, world reaction to the assassination, the arrest and subsequent murder of Oswald, film footage of Kennedy's funeral and an outline of the various investigations — by the FBI, Dallas police, Secret Service, Warren Commission, the Senate Intelligence Committee and the House Select Committee on the Kennedy Assassination.

In addition, an exhibit will be presented on unanswered questions and conflicts concerning the assassination.

The museum will be funded mostly through private donations and will be self-sustaining when completed, Mrs. Jones said.

County commissioners Monday approved an application for a $102,400 federal grant to begin acquiring film and exhibits.

BRIEFS....By the time you read this, former HSCA staff counsel G. Robert Blakey will have received a letter from acoustic scientist Dr. James Barger detailing specific further studies that should be done on the DPD tape; several weeks later, former HSCA chairman Louis Stokes will receive Barger's rebuttal of the Ramsey Report....The FWST story about Jack White and the Harrelson/Tramp theory (see Coverups 4) was killed three times, apparently by top management - but at least it finally ran....One of the big 3 network news organizations was digging into that theory, but suddenly dropped the project; one of the plans included submitting photos to a forensic anthropologist for evaluation....Researcher Robert Cutler is going to mail a diagram of Dealey Plaza to Harrelson with the hope he'll do for him what he did for Jimmy Chagra - mark where he was standing when JFK was shot....Reporters have said Harrelson's "a pathological liar"....Our regrets and sympathy to the family and friends of the late Rush Harp....The enclosed flyer comes from a new subscriber; unfortunately, an advance copy is not yet available for review....Michael Baden's problems in NYC apparently began when Nelson Rockefeller allegedly died while "in the act" with secretary Megan Marshak (now with CBS News); Baden's office officially denied it, but Rocky was cremated before an autopsy was performed....NBC News last summer reported that Jimmy Carter's library is to be constructed near Atlanta "on a grassy knoll."

COVERUPS! is published monthly with 8 or more pages of useful information for JFK researchers and historians. Subscription price in North America is $1.00 (US) per issue; residents of other countries should write for foreign rates. Back issues are available at your regular subscription price. Your subscription expires with the issue number on your address label. Original manuscripts, articles and newspaper clippings are always appreciated—your contributions are essential for a good newsletter!

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